

# RAT

Blast her pride, O ye blest gods! so will you wish on me,  
when the *rat* mood is on me. *Shakep.*  
I have scarce leisure to salute you,  
My matter is to *rat*. *Shakep. Troilus and Cressida.*  
Be not *rat* with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be  
hasty to utter any thing before God; for God is in heaven,  
and thou upon earth; therefore let thy words be few. *Ecluf.*  
Her *rat* hand in evil hour,  
Forth reaching to the fruit, she pluck'd, she eat. *Milton.*  
RASH. *n. f.* [*rafcia*, Italian.]  
1. Sattin. *Minshew.*  
2. [Corrupted probably from *rafia*.] An efflorescence on the  
body; a breaking out.  
RA'SHER. *n. f.* [*rafura lardi*, Lat.] A thin slice of bacon.  
If we grow all to be pork eaters, we shall not shortly have  
a *rafher* on the coals for money. *Shakep. Merch. of Venice.*  
White and black was all her homely cheer,  
And *rafher* of fang'd bacon on the coals. *Dryden.*  
Quenches his thirst with ale in nut-brown bowls,  
And takes the hasty *rafher* from the coals. *King.*  
RA'SHLY. *adv.* [from *rafia*.] Hastily; violently; without due  
consideration.  
This expedition was by York and Talbot  
Too *rafily* plotted. *Shakep. Henry VI. p. i.*  
Men are not *rafily* to take that for done, which is not  
done. *Bacon's Natural History.*  
He that doth any thing *rafily*, must do it willingly; for he  
was free to deliberate or not. *L'Estrange's Fables.*  
Declare the secret villain,  
The wretch so meanly base to injure Phædra,  
So *rafily* brave to dare the sword of Theseus. *Smith.*  
RA'SHNESS. *n. f.* [from *rafia*.] Foolish contempt of danger;  
inconsiderate heat of temper; precipitation; temerity.  
Who seeth not what sentence it shall enforce us to give  
against all churches in the world; in as much as there is not  
one, but hath had many things established in it, which though  
the scripture did never command, yet for us to condemn were  
*rafness*. *Hooker, b. iii. f. 6.*  
Nature to youth hot *rafness* doth dispence,  
But with cold prudence age doth recompence. *Denham.*  
In so speaking, we offend indeed against truth; yet we  
offend not properly by falsehood, which is a speaking against  
our thoughts; but by *rafness*, which is an affirming or deny-  
ing, before we have sufficiently informed ourselves. *South.*  
The vain Morat by his own *rafness* wrought,  
Too soon discover'd his ambitious thought,  
Believ'd me his, because I spoke him fair. *Dryden.*  
RASP. *n. f.* [*raspo*, Italian.] A delicious berry that grows on  
a species of the bramble; a raspberry.  
Sorrel set amongst *rasps*, and the *rasps* will be the smaller.  
*Bacon's Natural History.*  
Now will the corinths, now the *rasps* supply  
Delicious draughts, when prest to wines. *Philips.*  
To RASP. *v. a.* [*raspen*, Dutch; *rasper*, Fr. *raspare*, Italian.]  
To rub to powder with a very rough file.  
Some authors have advised the *rasping* of these bones; but  
in this case it is needless. *Wise's Surgery.*  
Having prepared hard woods and ivory for the lathe with  
*rasping*, they pitch it between the pikes. *Moxon.*  
RASP. *n. f.* [from the verb.] A large rough file, commonly  
used to wear away wood.  
Case-hardening is used by file-cutters, when they make  
coarse files, and generally most *rasps* have formerly been made  
of iron and case-hardened. *Moxon's Mechanical Exercises.*  
RA'SPATORY. *n. f.* [*raspatoir*, Fr. from *rasp*.] A surgeon's  
*rasp*.  
I put into his mouth a *raspatory*, and pulled away the cor-  
rupt flesh, and with cauteries burnt it to a crust. *Wise's Surgery.*  
RA'SPBERRY, or *Rasberry*. *n. f.* A kind of berry.  
*Raspberries* are of three sorts; the common wild one, the  
large red garden *raspberry*, which is one of the pleasantest  
of fruits, and the white, which is little inferior to the  
red. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*  
RASPBERRY-BUSH. *n. f.* A species of bramble.  
RA'SURE. *n. f.* [*rafura*, Lat.]  
1. The act of scraping or shaving.  
2. A mark in a writing where something has been rubbed out.  
Such a writing ought to be free from any vituperation of  
*rafure*. *Ayliffe's Parergon.*  
RAT. *n. f.* [*ratte*, Dutch; *rat*, Fr. *ratia*, Spanish.] An animal  
of the mouse kind that infests houses and ships.  
Our natures do pursue,  
Like *rats* that ravin down their proper bane. *Shakep.*  
Make you ready your stiff bats and clubs,  
Rome and her *rats* are at the point of battle. *Shakep.*  
I have seen the time, with my long sword I would have  
made you four tall fellows skip like *rats*. *Shakep.*  
Thus horses will knable at walls, and *rats* will gnaw  
iron. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
If in despair he goes out of the way like a *rat* with a dose  
of arsenick, why he dies nobly. *Dennis.*

# RAT

To smell a RAT. To be put on the watch by suspicion as the  
cat by the scent of a rat; to suspect danger.  
Quoth Hudibras, I smell a rat,  
Ralpho, thou dost prevaricate. *Hudibras, p. i.*  
RATABLE. *adj.* [from *rate*.] Set at a certain value.  
The Danes brought in a reckoning of money by ores, per  
oras; I collect out of the abby-book of Burton, that twenty  
ores were *ratable* to two marks of silver. *Camden's Remains.*  
RAT'ABLY. *adv.* Proportionably.  
Many times there is no proportion of shot and powder al-  
lowed *ratably* by that quantity of the great ordnance. *Raleigh.*  
RATA'RIA. *n. f.* A fine liquor, prepared from the kernels of  
apricots and spirits. *Bailey.*  
RATA'N. *n. f.* An Indian cane. *Ditt.*  
RATCH. *n. f.* In clockwork, a sort of wheel, which serves  
to lift up the detents every hour, and thereby make  
the clock strike. *Bailey.*  
RATE. *n. f.* [*ratius*, Lat. *rate*, old Fr.]  
1. Price fixed on any thing.  
How many things do we value, because they come at dear  
rates from Japan and China, which if they were our own  
manufacture, common to be had, and for a little money,  
would be neglected? *Locke.*  
I'll not betray the glory of my name,  
'Tis not for me, who have prefer'd a state,  
To buy an empire at so base a rate. *Dryden.*  
The price of land has never changed, in the several changes  
have been made in the rate of interest by law; nor now that  
the rate of interest is by law the same, is the price of land  
every where the same. *Locke.*  
2. Allowance settled.  
His allowance was a continual allowance, a daily rate for  
every day. *2 Kings xxv. 30.*  
They obliged themselves to remit after the rate of twelve  
hundred thousand pounds sterling per annum, divided into  
many monthly payments. *Addison.*  
3. Degree; comparative height or valour.  
I am a spirit of no common rate;  
The summer still doth tend upon my state. *Shakep.*  
I have disabled mine estate,  
By shewing something a more swelling port,  
Than my faint means would grant continuance;  
Nor do I now make moan to be abridged  
From such a noble rate. *Shakep. Merchant of Venice.*  
In this did his holiness and godliness appear above the rate  
and pitch of other mens, in that he was so infinitely mer-  
ciful. *Calamy's Sermons.*  
To which relation whatsoever is done agreeably, is mo-  
rally and essentially good; and whatsoever is done otherwise,  
is at the same rate morally evil. *South.*  
4. Quantity assignable.  
In goodly form comes on the enemy;  
And by the ground they hide, I judge their number  
Upon or near the rate of thirty thousand. *Shakep.*  
5. That which sets value.  
Heretofore the rate and standard of wit was very different  
from what it is now-a-days: no man was then accounted a  
wit for speaking such things, as deserved to have the tongue  
cut out. *South's Sermons.*  
A virtuous heathen is, at this rate, as happy as a virtuous  
christian. *Atterbury.*  
6. Manner of doing any thing; degree to which any thing is  
done.  
Many of the horse could not march at that rate, nor come  
up soon enough. *Clarendon, b. viii.*  
Tom hinting his dislike of some trifle his mistress had said,  
she asked him how he would talk to her after marriage, if he  
talked at this rate before? *Addison.*  
7. Tax imposed by the parish.  
They paid the church and parish rate,  
And took, but read not the receipt. *Prior.*  
To RATE. *v. a.* [from the noun.]  
1. To value at a certain price.  
I freely told you, all the wealth I had  
Ran in my veins, I was a gentleman;  
And yet, dear lady,  
Rating myself as nothing, you shall see  
How much I was a braggart. *Shakep. Merch. of Venice.*  
We may there be instructed, how to name and rate all  
goods, by those that will concentrate into felicity. *Boyle.*  
You seem not high enough your joys to rate,  
You stand indebted a vast sum to fate,  
And should large thanks for the great blessing pay. *Dryden.*  
2. [Reita, Islandick.] To chide hastily and vehemently.  
Go rate thy minions, proud insulting toy,  
Becomes it thee to be thus bold in terms  
Before thy sovereign. *Shakep. Henry VI. p. iii.*  
An old lord of the council rated me the other day in the  
street about you, Sir. *Shakep. Henry IV. p. i.*  
What is all that a man enjoys, from a year's converse,  
comparable to what he feels for one hour, when his confidence  
shall take him aside and rate him by himself. *South.*

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If words are sometimes to be used, they ought to be grave,  
kind and sober, representing the ill or unbecomingness of the  
faults, rather than a hasty rating of the child for it. *Locke.*  
RATH. *n. f.* A hill. I know not whence derived.  
There is a great use among the Irish, to make great as-  
semblies together upon a *rath* or hill, there to parly about  
matters and wrongs between townships or private persons.  
*Spenser on Ireland.*  
RATH. *adv.* Early.  
Thus is my summer worn away and wasted,  
Thus is my harvest hasten'd all too *rathe*,  
The ear, that budded fair, is burnt and blasted,  
And all my hoped gain is turn'd to scathe. *Spenser.*  
Strong Lagean wines  
*Rath* ripe and purple grapes there be. *May's Virgil.*  
*Rath* ripe are some, and some of later kind,  
Of golden some, and some of purple kind. *May's Virgil.*  
RATH. *adj.* [nað, Saxon, quickly.] Early; coming before  
the time.  
Bring the *rath* primrose that forsaken dies,  
The tufted crow-toe and pale jessamine. *Milton.*  
RATH'ER. *adv.* [this is a comparative from *rath*; nað, Saxon,  
soon. Now out of use. One may still say, by the same  
form of speaking, I will sooner do this than that; that is, I  
like better to do this.]  
1. More willingly; with better liking.  
Almighty God desireth not the death of a sinner, but ra-  
ther that he should turn from his wickedness and live. *Common Prayer.*  
2. Preferably to the other; with better reason.  
'Tis rather to be thought, that an heir had no such right  
by divine institution, than that God should give such a right,  
but yet leave it undetermined who such heir is. *Locke.*  
3. In a greater degree than otherwise.  
He sought through the world, but sought in vain,  
And no where finding, rather fear'd her slain. *Dryden.*  
4. More properly.  
This is an art,  
Which does mend nature, change it rather, but  
The art itself is nature. *Shakep. Winter's Tale.*  
5. Especially.  
You are come to me in a happy time,  
The rather for I have some sport in hand. *Shakep.*  
6. To have RATHER. [this is, I think, a barbarous expression  
of late intrusion into our language, for which it is better to  
say will rather.] To desire in preference.  
'Tis with reluctance he is provoked by our impetuosity to  
apply the discipline of severity and correction; he had rather  
mankind should adore him as their patron and benefactor.  
*Rogers's Sermons.*  
RATIFICATION. *n. f.* [*ratification*, Fr. from *ratify*.] The act  
of ratifying; confirmation.  
RATIFIER. *n. f.* [from *ratify*.] The person or thing that  
ratifies.  
They cry, "chuse we Laertes for our king?"  
The ratifiers and props of every word,  
Caps, hands and tongues applaud it to the clouds. *Shakep.*  
To RATIFY. *v. a.* [*ratum facio*, Latin.] To confirm; to  
settle.  
The church being a body which dieth not, hath always  
power, as occasion requireth, no less to ordain that which  
never was, than to *ratify* what hath been before. *Hooker.*  
By the help of these, with him above  
To *ratify* the work, we may again  
Give to our tables meat, sleep to our nights. *Shakep.*  
We have *ratified* unto them the borders of Judæa. *1 Mac.*  
God *ratified* their prayers by the judgment they brought  
down upon the head of him, whom they prayed against. *South.*  
Tell me, my friend, from whence had'st thou the skill,  
So nicely to distinguish good from ill?  
And what thou art to follow, what to fly,  
This to condemn, and that to *ratify*? *Dryden.*  
RATIO. *n. f.* [Latin.] Proportion.  
Whatever inclinations the rays have to the plane of inci-  
dence, the sine of the angle of incidence of every ray con-  
sidered apart, shall have to the sine of the angle of refraction  
a constant ratio. *Cheyne's Philosophical Principles.*  
To RATIOCINATE. *v. n.* [*ratiocinor*, Lat.] To reason;  
to argue.  
RATIOCINATION. *n. f.* [*ratiocinatio*, Lat.] The act of rea-  
soning; the act of deducing consequences from premises.  
In simple terms, expressing the open notions of things,  
which the second act of reason compoundeth into pro-  
positions, and the last into syllogisms and forms of *ratioci-  
nation*. *Brown.*  
Can any kind of *ratiocination* allow Christ all the marks of  
the Messiah, and yet deny him to be the Messiah? *South.*  
Such an inscription would be self-evident without any *ra-  
tification* or study, and could not fail constantly to exert its  
energy in their minds. *Bentley.*

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RATIOCINATIVE. *adj.* [from *ratiocinate*.] Argumentative;  
advancing by process of discourse.  
Some consecutions are so intimately and evidently connexed  
to, or found in the premises, that the conclusion is attained  
quasi per saltum, and without any thing of *ratiocinative* pro-  
cess, even as the eye sees his object immediately, and without  
any previous discourse. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*  
RATIONAL. *adj.* [*rationalis*, Latin.]  
1. Having the power of reasoning.  
2. Agreeable to reason.  
What higher in her society thou find'st  
Attractive, humane, *rational*, love still. *Milton.*  
When the conclusion is deduced from the unerring dictates  
of our faculties, we say the inference is *rational*. *Glavvill.*  
If your arguments be *rational*, offer them in as moving a  
manner as the nature of the subject will admit; but beware  
of letting the pathetick part swallow up the *rational*. *Swift.*  
3. Wise; judicious: as, a rational man.  
RATIONAL'LE. *n. f.* [from *ratio*, Lat.] A detail with reasons:  
as, Dr. Sparrow's *Rationale of the Common Prayer*.  
RATIONALIST. *n. f.* [from *rational*.] One who proceeds in  
his disquisitions and practice wholly upon reason.  
He often used this comparison; the empirical philosophers  
are like to pismires; they only lay up and use their store:  
the *rationalists* are like to spiders; they spin all out of their  
own bowels: but give me a philosopher, who, like the bee,  
hath a middle faculty, gathering from abroad, but digesting  
that which is gathered by his own virtue. *Bacon.*  
RATIONALITY. *n. f.* [from *rational*.]  
1. The power of reasoning.  
When God has made *rationality* the common portion of  
mankind, how came it to be thy inclosure? *Gov. of the Tong.*  
2. Reasonableness.  
In human occurrences, there have been many well directed  
intentions, whose *rationalities* will never bear a rigid exami-  
nation. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
RATIONALLY. *adv.* [from *rational*.] Reasonably; with  
reason.  
Upon the proposal of an agreeable object, it may *rationally*  
be conjectured, that a man's choice will rather incline him to  
accept than to refuse it. *South.*  
RATIONALNESS. *n. f.* [from *rational*.] The state of being  
*rational*.  
RA'TSBANE. *n. f.* [*rat* and *bane*.] Poison for rats; arsenick.  
Poor Tom! that hath laid knives under his pillow, and  
halts in his pew, set *ratbane* by his porridge. *Shakep.*  
He would throw *ratbane* up and down a house, where chil-  
dren might come at it. *L'Estrange.*  
When murder's out, what vice can we advance?  
Unless the new-found pois'ning trick of France;  
And when their art of *ratbane* we have got,  
By way of thanks, we'll fend 'em o'er our plot. *Dryden.*  
I can hardly believe the relation of his being poisoned, but  
sack might do it, though *ratbane* would not. *Swift to Pope.*  
RA'TTEEN. *n. f.* A kind of stuff.  
We'll rig in Meath-street Egypt's haughty queen,  
And Anthony shall court her in *ratteen*. *Swift.*  
To RA'TTLE. *v. n.* [*ratelen*, Dutch.]  
1. To make a quick sharp noise with frequent repetitions and  
collisions of bodies not very sonorous: when bodies are so-  
norous, it is called *jingling*.  
The quiver *rattled* against him. *Job xxxix. 23.*  
The noise of a whip, of the rattling of the wheels, of  
prancing horses, and of the jumping chariots. *Nab. iii. 2.*  
They had, to affright the enemies horses, big rattles co-  
vered with parchment, and small stones within; but the  
*rattling* of shot might have done better service. *Hayward.*  
He was too warm on picking work to dwell;  
He fagoted his notions as they fell,  
And if they rhym'd and *rattled* all was well. *Dryden.*  
There the assemblies all her blackest storms,  
And the rude hail in *rattling* tempest forms. *Addison.*  
2. To speak eagerly and noisily.  
With jealous eyes at distance she had seen  
Whispering with Jove the silver-footed queen;  
Then, impotent of tongue, her silence broke,  
Thus turbulent in *rattling* tone she spoke. *Dryden.*  
He is a man of pleasure, and a free-thinker; he is an af-  
fector of liberty and property; he *rattles* it out against  
popery. *Swift.*  
To RA'TTLE. *v. a.*  
1. To move any thing so as to make a rattle or noise.  
Her chains the *rattles*, and her whip the shakes. *Dryden.*  
2. To stun with a noise; to drive with a noise.  
Sound but another, and another shall,  
As loud as thine, *rattle* the welkin's ear,  
And mock the deep-mouth'd thunder. *Shakep.*  
He should be well enough able to scatter the Irish as a flight  
of birds, and *rattle* away this swarm of bees with their  
king. *Bacon's Henry VII.*